



# Straight*talk*

News For And About The Libraries Of Northeast Nebraska

July/August 2010

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To subscribe to additional copies or update names or addresses, please contact Jessica Chamberlain or Shelia Cermak at the Northeast Library System Office. 402-564-1586 or 800-578-1014 [jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com](mailto:jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com)

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## 2010 American Library Association Conference

“Wow! I can’t believe we’re here.” That’s what I kept thinking as Shelia and I were at the annual American Library Association Conference. What an amazing experience. As both of us were first-time conference attendees, the whole weekend was a little overwhelming for us, but I’d like to share a little bit about what the conference is about.

First, there are the workshops. Hundreds and hundreds of workshops that cover a wide array of subjects. Using graphic novels in your library, learning about the newest technology trends, and talking about library statistics are just a small sampling of some of the great programs you could attend.

Next, there are the exhibits. Enough exhibits to make your head whirl. Publishing houses large and small were there, promoting their books, along with library automation vendors, database experts and library furniture salesmen. If there is something that belongs in libraries, it was there on the exhibit floor. We learned about all kinds of new items and services available to libraries.

And then there are the authors. Lots and lots of authors. For someone who is easily star-struck, I was in seventh heaven surrounded by the likes of Mo Willems, Rosemary Wells, Junot Diaz, John Grisham and Denis Lehane. But by far, my favorite moment of the whole conference was meeting the legendary, Nobel laureate and Pulitzer-Prize winning author Toni Morrison.

I’ll be doing an NCompass Live session on August 4th about the “Best of ALA 2010” so if you’d like to know more, please join us. I encourage everyone to try and get to an ALA annual conference sometime—it’s worth it!

# Northeast News



## Did you know you could borrow seeds?

Little Priest Tribal College in Winnebago loans out seeds to patrons. At the end of the season, the patrons are asked to bring back a portion of seeds from that year's harvest to share with the community for the next planting year.

Little Priest Tribal College is not the only library that loans out non-traditional materials. Several libraries loan out cake pans, puzzles and even games. Norfolk Public Library loans out travel packs for people going on vacation and they just started loaning out video games. The South Sioux City Public Library loans out umbrellas!

*If you have an exciting event you would like to share with other Northeast Nebraska libraries, contact the Northeast Library System office and ask to have your item included in the "Northeast News" section of the newsletter.*

**Northeast Library System has a NEW website! Check it out at**

**<http://libraries.ne.gov/nels>**

You can find a calendar of events with links to registration forms, lists of materials in our lending library and find out about all the services that NELS offers.

Our new website was made possible by the Nebraska Libraries on the Web project by the Nebraska Library Commission. Other libraries in Northeast Nebraska that got new websites through this project are:

- Clarkson Public Library
- Meadow Grove Public Library
- Pilger Public Library



Battle Creek Public Library has moved into their new building! The Battle Creek Methodist church was remodeled to give Battle Creek a freshly remodeled and modern library.

# Upcoming Events

***A Calendar of Upcoming Events and links to details and registration forms can be found on our new website at: <http://libraries.ne.gov/nels/calendar>***

**July 21**—NELS Board Meeting—O'Neill Public Library, O'Neill

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Contact:** Jessica Chamberlain, NELS Director, 800-578-1014/402-564-1586

**July 22**—Database Roadshow—Wayne State College, Wayne

Provides Nebraska librarians and media specialists with an overview of the NebraskaAccess web site, as well as hands-on training with the state-funded databases.

**Time:** 9:30—3:30

**Contact:** Jeannette Powell, 402-471-7740 or 800-307-2665

**July 31**—Norfolk Public Library Literature Festival—Northeast Community College, Norfolk

This year's festival features three of the 2011 Golden Sower Award nominees:

Deborah Hopkinson, Heather Henson, and Tony Varrato.

**Time:** 9:00-4:00

**Contact:** Karen Drevo, 402-844-2108

**August 4**—NCompass Live: Best of ALA 2010—online

If you weren't able to come to one of the Best of ALA 2010 Roadshows, you can join us for this NCompass Live session highlighting this year's conference.

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Contact:** Christa Burns, 402-471-3107 or 800-307-2665

**August 24**—AWE Early Literacy Station Demo—Wayne Public Library

Come see a free demonstration of this kid-tested, librarian-approved computer.

**Time:** 10:00 a.m.

**Contact:** Jessica Chamberlain, NELS Director, 800-578-1014/402-564-1586

**September 14 and 15**—Bridging the Gender Gap: Enticing Boys to Books—Aurora and Paxton

Hear children's services expert and library consultant Carole Fiore at one of these great workshops about encouraging boys to read.

**Time:** 9:00-4:00

**Contact:** Sherry Houston, RVLS Director, 800-569-4961/402-462-1975

**September 23**—NELS Annual Conference—Northeast Community College, Norfolk

Join us at our Annual Conference and for a refreshing and informative day.

**Time:** 9:00-4:00

**Contact:** Jessica Chamberlain, NELS Director, 800-578-1014/402-564-1586

# NELS Resources

There are many new professional materials to choose from! Please, check out our new Professional Books, Professional Training Videos, Book Club Kits, and Wii Games!

## Professional Books

*Best Books for Young Adults (3rd Edition)* edited by Holly Koelling

*Connecting Boys with Books 2: Closing the Reading Gap* by Michael Sullivan

*Developing an Outstanding Core Collection: A Guide for Libraries* by Carol Alabaster

*Public Libraries Going Green* by Kathryn Miller

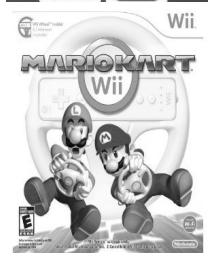
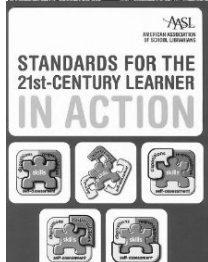
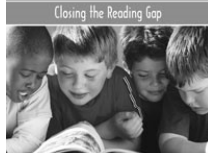
*Serving Boys Through Readers' Advisory* by Michael Sullivan

*The Small Public Library Survival Guide* by Herbert B. Landau

*Standards for the 21st-Century Learner In Action* by the American Association of School Librarians

## Wii Games

- Mario Kart—game with 2 steering wheels
- Band Hero—game with drum set, guitar and microphone



## Professional Training Videos

Great for CE hours for librarians and board members! Check our website for a full description of each video.

- Back Talk with Dr. Sokoloff
- Customer Service Basics
- Face It! Using your face to sell your message
- I Need a Book! A Guide to Readers' Advisory
- Putting Customers First
- Solving Difficult Situations
- Wikis, Podcasts and Blogs, Oh My!
- Going Green
- Serving Teens in Libraries

## Book Club Kits

- *The White Darkness* by Geraldine Mccaughrean (Young Adult book)
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- *Savvy* by Ingrid Law (Juvenile book)
- *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
- *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger
- *My Antonia* by Willa Cather
- *Bless Me, Ultima* by Rudolfo Anaya
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins (Young Adult book)

## Kids and Teens



We all know that kids love the computer. Even little children are using the internet, visiting sites designed just for preschoolers, like PBS Kids and Nick Jr. If your library is seeing your computer users get younger and younger, consider dedicating a computer or two just for the little ones. You can take an older computer and load some educational games on it, or you can consider a specialized computer made just for little ones.

The **Early Literacy Station by AWE** comes with pre-loaded software for kids ages 2-10, a color-coded keyboard and withstands repeated use by small children. The computers cost \$3500, but Nebraska libraries have been given a discount price of \$2800. Although this is a steep price tag, these computers are qualifying purchases for those who are applying for a Nebraska Library Commission Youth for Excellence Grant.

If you'd like to see a demo of an Early Literacy Station by AWE, you can join us at **Wayne Public Library on August 24 at 10:00 a.m.** Please see the registration form in this newsletter.



### WrestleMania Reading Challenge

The deadline to register is **July 31!**

The WrestleMania Reading Challenge is sponsored by YALSA and World Wrestling Entertainment. The program encourages teens and tweens to read during Teen Read Week and beyond. By doing so, they can win prizes donated by WWE and other organizations.

Librarians can register to participate with YALSA from April 15 through **July 31, 2010**. Registrants can request one or two WrestleMania Reading Challenge Resource Kits and will be entered to win one of five sets of books courtesy of Penguin.

For more info, or to register, check out [www.ala.org/yalsa](http://www.ala.org/yalsa).

### Fallen Angels

It seems that angels, and fallen angels in particular, are starting to infiltrate teen fantasy fiction like an army of newborn vampires. If you're looking for some new fantasy fiction that doesn't involve blood-sucking, try these titles:



- Hush, Hush by Becca Fitzpatrick
- Fallen by Lauren Kate
- Heavenly by Jennifer Laurens

# Using Numbers to Tell Your Story

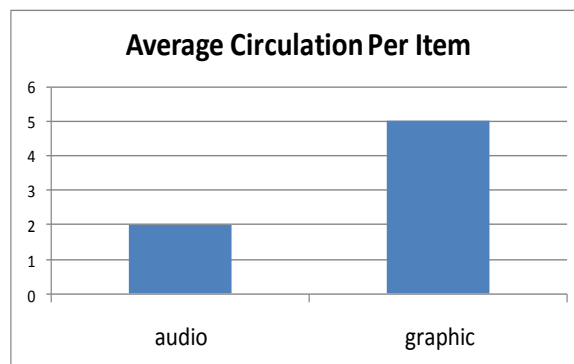
We librarians are not particularly known for our mathematical savvy. Yet most of us are called on at some point or another to analyze numbers. Some of us have budgets to consider, some are concerned with circulation figures, and for many of us that tends to make us feel more than a little uncomfortable. Yet numbers can be powerful allies. Numbers can help us justify to others why what we believe in is important. The headlines lately have been touting the importance of libraries in this tough economic time. Libraries are being used now more than ever before, but we wouldn't know that—and more importantly couldn't **prove** that—if we didn't have the numbers to back it up. So here are a few tips to keep in mind when you are working with collecting statistics in your library.

- **Keep it simple.** Figure out what you want to know first and stick to collecting only that information. Let's use the example of analyzing the circulation of a graphic novel collection.
- **Think like your audience.** When you've got the numbers that you want, put them in context for your audience. If your graphic novels have circulated 20 times this year, let your audience know if that's good or bad. Remember that your City Council Member or Library Director may not have a frame of reference for this information. Make your information tell your story. Are you trying to prove that graphic novels are becoming more popular? Then compare your graphic novel circulation this year to last year's number. Are you trying to prove that graphic novels are as important to your collection as other formats? Then compare your graphic novel circulation to another format, like audio books. Don't forget to take your total circulation and divide it by the number of items in that collection to make sure you get a fair comparison.

*If your graphic novels circulated 20 times, but you only have 4 of them, then that means they each circulated an average of 5 times. If your audio books circulated 100 times but you have 50 of them, then they each circulated an average of 2 times. So even if it looks like your audio books circulated more, your graphic novels had a higher circulation per item.*

- **Make it pretty.** Visual diagrams always help people compare things, so when possible, include a chart. If you're using Excel to work with your numbers, there is a handy chart button that will make the graphic for you. If you're not sure how to do that, check out YouTube for some great Excel tutorials on how to make charts. If you're not using Excel, you can use this handy chart maker from the National Center for Educational Statistics:

<http://nces.ed.gov/nceskids/createagraph/>



# Grants and Freebies

## **Build-A-Bear Literacy and Education Grants**

The Build-A-Bear Workshop Bear Hugs Foundation supports charities in the US and Canada through grant programs including Literacy and Education Grants which provide support for programs such as summer reading programs, early childhood education programs, and literacy programs for children with special needs. Grants are a one-time contribution, and range from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

**Website:** [www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants/default.aspx](http://www.buildabear.com/aboutus/community/grants/default.aspx)

**Deadline:** Ongoing, starting 3/2010

## **Free Audio Books**

Librivox is a volunteer organization that records people reading books that are in the public domain and then they publish those recordings on the internet. There are currently over 3,000 titles available and their goal is to record all books in the public domain.

**Website:** [www.librivox.com](http://www.librivox.com)

## **Free Classroom Handouts and Bookmarks**

Abdo Publishing has a wide variety of handouts available for free downloading on their website. You can print off interviews with Stan Lee, information on Comics and Literacy, American Sign Language tools, recipes and more.

**Website:** [www.abdopublishing.com](http://www.abdopublishing.com)

## **Free Copyright Education Curriculum**

"Join the ©Team" is an educational program that introduces the concept of intellectual property for students in grades K-5. The materials provide students with hands-on activities and worksheets to teach students respect for intellectual property through the creation of their own copyrighted works, and offers them guidance and tips on avoiding plagiarism.

**Website:** [www.jointhecteams.com](http://www.jointhecteams.com)

## **Free Research Tool**

iCyte is a free downloadable browser add-on that allows users to highlight content on any web page, save it to iCyte's server and then access it from anywhere later on. These "Cytes" can then be saved, emailed or shared on social media. It could be a great way for high-school or college students to collaborate on research projects.

**Website:** [www.icyte.com](http://www.icyte.com)

# AWE Early Literacy Station Demo



This computer comes with pre-loaded software for kids ages 2-10, a touch-screen monitor, color-coded keyboard, a color printer and withstands repeated use by small children.

If you are interested in learning more about having a literacy stations, please joins us as Linda Mavrinac from AWE demonstrates its features.

These computers are qualifying purchases for those who are applying for a Nebraska Library Commission Youth for Excellence Grant.

**August 24, 2010  
10:00 a.m.**

**Wayne Public Library  
410 N. Pearl St.  
Wayne, NE 68787**

**Free, 1 hour CE credit**

*Better Library Service  
through Cooperation*

**Northeast Library System**  
3038 33rd Ave., Suite 13  
Columbus, NE 68601

PH: 800-578-1014  
PH: 402-564-1586  
FAX: 402-564-7977

jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Library: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please register by August 17 via mail, fax or email.**  
This event is free, but please register so we can accommodate those interested. Thank you!



**Meridian, Northeast, Panhandle and Republican Valley Library  
Systems Present:**

**Bridging the Gender Gap:  
Enticing Boys to Books  
Presenter: Carole Fiore  
September 14th or 15th, 2010**



Carole D. Fiore holds a BS in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from Temple University and an MS in Library Science from Drexel University. Carole was a public library consultant with the State Library and Archives of Florida where she directed the award winning Florida Library Youth Program (FLYP). She also served as the Library Services and Technology Act Grant Coordinator and liaison consultant to libraries and library systems in rural, suburban, and urban areas.

Carole will teach you how to:

- Increase your knowledge and skill level in connecting boys and books.
- How to evaluate and purchase materials attractive to boys.
- Types of activities that will attract boys to libraries and reading
- Understand boy's developmental progression.

**This program is sponsored in part by the Nebraska Library Commission and funded in part with state funds allocated through the Nebraska Legislature**

**September 14th**  
Aurora Public Library  
1603 "L" Street  
Aurora NE

**September 15th**  
Ole's Big Game  
Steakhouse &  
Lounge  
123 North Oak  
Paxton NE

\$20 per person (includes lunch)

**Bridging the Gender Gap: Enticing Boys to Books**

Registration

Circle one: **Aurora** or **Paxton**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Library: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail \$20.00 check and registration by **September 1, 2010**  
to:

Republican Valley Library System  
2727 W. Second Street # 233  
Hastings, NE 68901-4684  
800-569-4961 or 402-462-1975  
E-mail: [rvlsasst@inebraska.com](mailto:rvlsasst@inebraska.com)

# Northeast Library System Annual Conference

**September 23, 2010**

Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College, Norfolk

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOWN** \_\_\_\_\_

**LIBRARY** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

9:00—9:30 Registration

9:30—10:30 **Balancing Life and Libraries in Support of Excellence** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5  
with Dr. Rebecca Pasco, UNO  
Or

9:30—10:30 **Social Media in Libraries** with Michael Sauers \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5

10:30—10:45 Break

10:45—11:45 **E-Readers 101** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5  
with Michael Sauers and Jessica Chamberlain  
Or

10:45—11:45 **Reaching Out to your Spanish-Speaking Patrons** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5  
with Karla Shafer, director of Hooper Public Library

11:45—12:00 Break

12:00—1:15 **Annual Meeting Luncheon** \_\_\_\_\_ @ FREE

1:15—1:30 Break

1:30—2:30 **Recipe for Library Success** with Dan Kuester \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5

2:30—2:45 Break

2:45—3:45 **Talk Tables** \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$5

Please circle one: public—school—academic/special

**Northeast Library System**  
3038 33rd Ave., Suite 13  
Columbus, NE 68601  
PHONE: 402-564-1586  
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FAX: 402-564-7977  
jchamberlain.nels@gmail.com

**Total Cost** \_\_\_\_\_

**Northeast Library System  
Board Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 2010**

The Library System Board met on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at the Verdigre Public Library. Host was director Deb Hamilton. Kate Ostenrude, President, called the meeting to order. Members in attendance were Judy Hagan, Michele Hastreiter, Tami Anderson, Dee Johnson, Jolene Klein, Lynn Manhart, Chris Chilcoat, Kathy Ageton, Elaine Tobias, and Sally Stahlecker. Absent were Sharon Jones and Joyce Sullivan. Also present were Library System Director Jessica Chamberlain, Shelia Cermak, Administrative Assistant, and Richard Miller of the Nebraska Library Commission.

The minutes were approved. (Johnson 1M / Manhart 2M / all ayes) Correspondence was read. Shelia presented the Financial Report. It was moved and approved by roll call vote. (Ageton 1M / Hagan 2M / all aye).

Richard Miller reported for the Nebraska Library Commission. He announced that through the gift of an anonymous donor there is a new Student Internship Grant that will benefit 10 libraries with \$1,000. Guidelines for the grant are currently under review, and comments can be emailed to Richard or to the NLC until Oct. 31. He also promoted use of the free webinars available through the NLC, and he stated that the 2010 Nebraska Book Awards will be given Nov. 6 in Lincoln.

Jessica Chamberlain gave the Director's report. The first *Straighttalk* newsletter was published in 10 months. There is a new Northeast Library System website at <http://libraries.ne.gov/nels/>, which was established through a pilot project with the Nebraska Library Commission. All services, including the URL, are free. The Summer Reading Program workshop was successful and well received.

No committee reports were given.

In Unfinished Business, recommendations for updating the bylaws were discussed. It was moved and approved to change three bylaws to the following: (Stahlecker 1M / Chilcoat 2M / all aye)

**ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 4: Election, Terms, and Replacement of Board Members. Regular terms of Board members shall begin at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting and expire at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, three years hence. A Board member whose term has expired shall still hold office until a qualified successor has been elected or appointed.

Section 9: Officers. Any check for payment requires two of three signatures from the Treasurer, the Director, or designated current or past member residing in the Columbus area. In instances where there is only one person in the area, the check(s) will be signed by a registered signer, copied, and then presented to one of the other two signers, initialed and dated.

**ARTICLE VII – NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee shall consist of three people, one of whom shall be a current board member who serves as Chairperson and liaison to the board. The remaining two committee members may be outgoing board members or residents of the System area.

Also in Unfinished Business, Dee Johnson made recommendations for the budget committee for the use of the one-time overage fund available. This extra funding accrued during the past year with no director's salary and no newsletter published. It was moved and approved to accept the recommendations for the expenditure of the overage funds. (Ageton 1M / Tobias 2M / all ayes)

In New Business, members were asked for comments and suggestions for a speaker for the annual meeting in September. The cell phone service for the director was discussed. It was moved and approved to cancel the current cell phone service and to investigate other options. (Chilcoat 1M / Johnson 2M / all aye)

Members shared local library news. A Pat on the Back Award will be presented to Dixie Kucera, retiring director of the Tilden Public Library, for her many years of excellent service.

A motion was made to pay the claims of the day. (Ageton 1M / Stahlecker 2M / all aye) The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene Klein, Secretary

### **Did you know?**

Melvil Dewey believed in something he called the “economy of spelling.” He thought unnecessary letters should be removed from words whenever possible, which is why he changed his first name from “Melville” to “Melvil.”

In 1876 Dewey helped begin the Spelling Reform Association of which he was Secretary for almost all his life. He also served on the Simplified Spelling Board. Dewey believed that there were two elements that obstructed elementary education. One being the American system of weights and measures and the other one being complicated spelling.

About the English language Dewey wrote:

"Speling Skolars agree that we hav the most unsyentifik, unskolarli, illojikal & wasteful speling ani languaj ever ataind."